

# *Fiscal* TOPICS

Published November 2016



## **Bluffland Protection Fund**

### **Purpose and History**

The Blufflands Protection Revolving Fund was created during the 1999 Legislative Session to make loans to conservation groups to purchase blufflands along the Mississippi River or the Missouri River.

The purpose of the Fund is to provide financial assistance to private conservation organizations to buy land that is adjacent to, or involves easements of, significant blufflands along the Iowa side of the Mississippi or Missouri rivers. The conservation organization must be a nonprofit organization incorporated in Iowa to enhance and protect the natural resources of the state. The nonprofit can obtain a loan from the Blufflands Protection Revolving Fund to purchase land or for an easement. The Blufflands Protection Revolving Fund is divided into two equal accounts. One account is designated for the purchase of blufflands along the Missouri River and the other account is for blufflands along the Mississippi River.

The Director of the Department of Natural Resources appoints a committee to review loan applications. The maximum loan is for a length of five years with a simple interest rate of 4.0%. The interest is waived when an approved conservation easement is placed on the property or when the property is transferred in fee title to the State of Iowa.

### **Funding History**

The Fund received an FY 1999 appropriation of \$500,000 from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF). The Fund balance is limited by statute to \$2.5 million, and any funds in excess of that amount are credited back to the RIIF.

### **Related Statutes**

Iowa Code section [161A.80](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [571—24](#)

### **More Information**

Upper Mississippi River Basin Association: <http://www.umrba.org/>

Loess Hills Alliance: <http://www.loesshillsalliance.com/>

Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

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